

MONTANA EARLY CHILDHOOD PRACTITIONER SUMMIT

November 5 & 6, 2008

Helena, Montana

Sponsored by the State of Montana Early Childhood Service Bureau

In November of 2007, the Early Childhood Service Bureau (ECSB) and Montana's community of early care and education providers began working to develop a new Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) for child care providers. Over the past months, a tremendous amount of work has been done in developing the new system. By October of this year, ECSB plans to have draft documents outlining a five star QRIS, including a framework which outlines quality indicators, incentives and supports to assist providers in setting goals and achieving quality outcomes, and a point system for moving through the levels. ECSB staff are actively engaged in soliciting input as this system is designed, holding forums in local communities and meeting with interested groups.

As part of the effort to design a practical, user friendly system, ECSB is sponsoring a Practitioner Summit, which will be held on November 5 and 6 in Helena, Montana. We are now soliciting applications for this summit. The summit will host 15 child care providers; five family home providers, five group home providers, and five center directors. The requirements to participate include:

- Being a current, licensed child care provider,
- Willingness to commit to attending the entire two day summit,
- Willingness to spend at least two to three hours before the summit reading materials and preparing for the summit, and
- Willingness to help identify potential problems with the system and to help generate solutions to the identified problems.

The ECSB will pay expenses including travel (with carpooling whenever possible), lodging, food and substitutes for your child care facility.

To apply, please complete the attached application form. Applications must be received in the ECSB office by September 15. For more information, please contact Jamie Palagi, ECSB Bureau Chief at 406-444-1828.

**Application for Practitioner Summit: November 5th & 6th 2008, Jorgenson's Inn & Suites
Helena, Montana**

Name _____

Work Address _____

City/ZIP _____

Phone/Fax _____

E-Mail _____

Job Title _____

Employer _____

1. Have you provided direct care to children in an early care and education program?

Yes No

If so, how many years: _____

*Attach a current résumé with verifiable information about relevant education,
work, and professional experiences.*

2. Have you been a recipient of any of Montana's Best Beginnings Quality funds?

Yes No

If yes, please indicate which ones:

3. Please write a brief statement indicating why you are interested in participating in the QRIS Practitioner Summit:

4. Please write a brief statement discussing your philosophy on quality child care.

5. Please indicate which setting(s) you have worked in and the number of years in each setting:

Family home child care _____

Family group child care _____

Center based child care _____

Legally unregistered provider _____

Preschool program _____

Head Start/Early Head Start _____

6. Please indicate your current facility status:

Center Director

Group Home

Family Home

Are you active on the Montana Early Care and Education Practitioner Registry?

Yes

No

Not Yet

If so, what is your level on the Career Path? _____

If you have chosen not to participate in the Practitioner Registry, please indicate your reasons:

Signature

Date